workers are engaged in construction activities. The estimated number of Beedi workers in the country is about 44 lakh.

(d) The Government has enacted the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 for improving the working and living conditions of the beedi and construction workers. The other labour laws i.e. the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act, 1979 enacted to protect the interests of workers are applicable to the workers in the unorganised sector as well.

Labour Reforms

1924. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the precautionary measures Government propose to take so that labour reforms may not turn to be insensitive to the social security of labourers themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Review of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms and to update the provisions, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws and steps initiated accordingly. While carrying out these amendments, Government is also aware of its commitment to maintain social security of labourers under various labour laws.